

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to reply to the public comments on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. To promote competition, diversity and local content, the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules and impose stricter public interest requirements.

It is crucial to a democracy that an open and well distributed access to the media is maintained. I believe that the more consolidated the media becomes, the less the citizens of this country feel that they have any kind of ability to participate in its governance. Further, it is well known abroad that the media in this country, especially over the last 10 years, is a joke in terms of the diversity of coverage of viewpoints.

The studies commissioned by the FCC are flawed and incomplete. By allowing our media outlets to merge print and broadcast facilities a greater restriction on the breadth of news and information available to citizens to act in the public interest will result.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

As a media maker, an artist and a citizen who is interested in the proliferation of democracy I strongly believe that we should increase the diversity of ownership of print media and broadcast facilities, not consolidate.

Thank you,

Sarah Lewison